

Application No.: 09/280,609

D&W Docket No.: 6402

IN THE CLAIMS

1-10. (canceled)

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11. (twice amended) In a computer network having at least one server, including a full set of software and a full set of configuration information relating to a set of products, connectable to at least one client, a method for creating technical configurations and electronically delivering order reports to at least one client, the method comprising:

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- (a) ~~interactively eliciting from a user on the at least one client~~ receiving a desired subset of possible products having technical configurations product selected from the set of products by a user on the client;
 - (b) ~~in response to the user's desired subset of possible products having technical configurations, downloading from the at least one server to the at least one client~~ limited configuration information that is a subset of a the full set of configuration information residing on the server and limited configuration programs that are a subset of a the full configuration program residing on the server, wherein the limited configuration information and limited configuration programs are determined based on the desired product;
 - (c) ~~interactively eliciting from the user on the at least one client~~ requesting a desired technical configuration from the user, wherein the viability of the desired technical configuration has been and preliminarily checking checked at the at least one client the viability of the desired technical configuration using the limited configuration information and the limited configuration programs;
 - (d) ~~uploading~~ receiving the desired technical configuration from the at least one client to the at least one server and performing a full check on the viability of the desired technical configuration using the full set of configuration information and the full set of configuration programs on the at least one server; and
 - (e) ~~responsive to the full check, preparing and outputting on the at least one client an electronic order report, if the full check is successful.~~

12. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising using a TCP/IP connection to pass an HTTP request from the client to the server.

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13. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the limited configuration information comprises limited option attributes and limited option rules.

C/ 14. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the limited configuration programs comprise an HTML page and client-side programs.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the client-side programs comprise a plug-in or helper-application.

16. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the client-side programs include one or more programs selected from Java, JavaScript, ActiveX, and Helper-Viewer.

17. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the client-side programs are cached on the client.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the client-side programs are cached in client-side memory.

19. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the client-side programs are cached on client-side disk storage.

20. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the act of performing a full check comprises executing a CGI script on the server.

21. (amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising: (f) in response to the act of performing a full check on the viability of the desired technical configuration on the ~~at least one~~ server, allocating and downloading to the ~~at least one~~ client additional limited configuration information; and (g) receiving from the ~~at least one~~ client a second desired technical configuration developed from client processing of the additional limited configuration information.

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22. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the act of interactively eliciting and electronically receiving further comprises enabling the user to specify whether an exact match or a loose match is desired between the desired technical configuration and a viable configuration.

23. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the act of interactively eliciting and electronically receiving on the client further comprises using templates of pre-configured information.

24-40. (canceled)

41. (new) The method of claim 11 wherein the eliciting step includes requesting at least one of the group consisting of: a vehicle make, a vehicle model, and a vehicle series.

42. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein the desired technical configuration is a vehicle configuration.

43. (new) A method for generating an order for a vehicle on a network-based computer system including a server and a client, the server including a full configuration engine including software, a full set of option attributes, and a full set of option rules relating to each of a plurality of vehicles, the method comprising:

receiving an identification of a desired vehicle from the client;

transmitting a limited configuration engine to the client in response to the identification,

the limited engine corresponding to the desired vehicle and including a limited set of option rules;

receiving a vehicle configuration from the client, wherein the client has performed a successful preliminary viability check of the vehicle configuration, using the limited set of option rules;

performing a full viability check of the vehicle configuration at the server, using the full set of option rules; and

sending an order report summarizing the vehicle configuration to the client, if the full viability check is successful.

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44. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the limited engine includes limited software and a limited set of option attributes.

45. (new) The method of claim 43 further including, after performing the full viability check, communicating at least one problem with the vehicle configuration to the client.

46. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the at least one problem is displayed on the client in an HTML web page.

47. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein, if the full viability check is unsuccessful, the server transmits an updated limited configuration engine to the client, the updated limited configuration engine including updated software and updated option rules.

48. (new) The method of claim 43 further comprising transmitting an updated limited configuration engine to the client, where the vehicle configuration failed to pass the final viability check.

49. (new) The method of claim 48 further comprising receiving a second vehicle configuration, wherein the client has performed a second viability check of the second vehicle configuration, using the updated limited configuration engine.

50. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the receiving an identification of the desired vehicle comprises:

receiving a vehicle make from the client;

sending a set of vehicle models to the client, the vehicle models corresponding to the vehicle make; and

receiving a vehicle model from the client, the vehicle model chosen from the set of vehicle models.

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51. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the limited configuration engine includes an HTML web page and client-side programs.

52. (new) The method of claim 51 wherein the client-side programs include a plug-in or helper-application.

53. (new) The method of claim 51 wherein the client-side programs include one or more programs selected from the group consisting of: Java, JavaScript, ActiveX, and Helper-Viewer.